

Haitian leader steps down

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril, who came to power in a 1986 coup and has been under increasing pressure to resign, turned over power to another general Saturday, the independent television station Tele-Haiti reported. The report, which could not be immediately confirmed, said Avril handed power over to Gen. Gerard Abraham, the army chief of staff who is to govern until an interim government takes over within 72 hours. Tele-Haiti said Avril was no longer commander-in-chief of the army and will return "in private life" to his suburban Port-au-Prince home. A civilian reached by telephone at the presidential palace did not say whether Avril had already stepped down, but he said he was retiring from the army. The official, who asked not to be identified, said Avril's predecessor had accepted the transition and "everything's going to turn out all right." Thousands of people waving symbolic tree branches demonstrated in downtown Port-au-Prince to celebrate Avril's resignation. See earlier story on page 8.

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Cabinet passes copyright law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed a new draft law for copyrights. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, decided to forward the draft law to Parliament to consider.

Panel works on new PNC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) has ended and a decision has been taken to set up a new council grouping new members. Palestinian sources here said that a special committee chaired by Palestine President Yasser Arafat had been called to meet in Tunis on March 13 to lay down broadlines for the new lineup. The committee includes Salim Al Zaazoun, Mahmoud Tayyem, Mohammad Sabihi, Jamal Al Sourani, Badie Al Abu Jbeil, Sami Khalil Saleem, Mohammad Al Maelmi, Abdul Ruhman Al Hourani and Ibrahim Assad, the sources said.

Abie Nathan meets Arafat in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Israeli pacifist Abie Nathan, who served a four-month jail term in Israel for meeting Yasser Arafat, said he held another meeting with the Palestinian leader in Tunis Friday. He told Reuters Saturday that he spoke with Arafat for an hour, making "several proposals on what could be done relating to bringing about a climate of peace and reducing some of the misgivings on both sides, to create hope and understanding. I told him there is a big desire, more than ever before, for peace among the people of Israel, and we hope that our leaders have the courage and vision not to let the people of Israel down." He said his proposals were designed "to give more credibility for direct dialogue with the PLO." He gave no other details. It was Nathan's seventh meeting with the PLO leader since 1982. Israeli bans contacts between its citizens and members of the PLO. "If I have to spend the rest of my life in jail, I will continue to fight this law which stops people from talking peace," he said.

Pope to meet with Havel next month

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul will meet with President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia next month during the pontiff's visit to Prague, the Vatican said Saturday. The Pope's 33-hour trip to Czechoslovakia will be his first visit to a Warsaw Pact country other than his native Poland. The April 21-22 visit will include a visit to Havel in the official presidential residence.

Lesotho king goes into exile

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) — King Moshesha II of Lesotho is going into exile in Britain after a bitter dispute with the country's military government, palace officials said Saturday. The king of the mountainous African nation left for London Saturday, according to palace officials, who declined to be named. But government officials said the king was going on holiday to rest for an unspecified period.

Italian Communists to form new party

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Italy's Communist Party, the West's biggest, took a first step Saturday towards transforming itself into a social democratic organisation following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. But as party chief Achille Occhetto appealed for unity among members, the hardline old guard indicated they would fight to try to preserve communism. Occhetto spoke as delegates, representing the Italian Communist Party's 1.4 million members, wound up a four-day congress and began voting on policy changes. These included: electing a new central committee and backing moves by Occhetto, 54, to change the logo and name of the party officially known as the PCI, and create a new social democratic movement encompassing various left-wing groups.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

BY LIAISON
DIVISION

Iraq issues unconditional amnesty

ERBIL, Iraq (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday announced an amnesty for all Kurds in exile, including a rebel excluded from a previous offer. Announcing the unconditional amnesty during a surprise visit to the Iraqi Kurdish autonomous region, Hussein said it would be in force for two months from Sunday. Baraa Al-Aldan, chairman of Kurdistan's legislative council, and Jasir Barzani, executive council chairman, told a news conference the offer included Jalil Talabani, leader of the rebel Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Talabani was excluded from an amnesty declared a year ago because he cooperated with Iran during the 1980-88 Gulf war. Al-Aldan and Barzani said the offer also included Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party, and the Communist. Al-Aldan said the amnesty covered some 20,000 Kurds still in Turkey after fleeing Iraq in 1988 and groups of Kurds, whom he did not specify, in Iran and other countries. Hussein was visiting Erbil, the centre of Iraqi Kurdistan, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of its autonomy declaration.

Badran delivers King's message, holds talks with Prince Abdullah

S. Arabia promises to study Jordan's needs

Prime minister urges U.S. action against Jerusalem settlement plans

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Saudi leadership has been briefed on Jordan's current needs in view of the financial difficulties the Kingdom is facing and the economic hardships the country is going through as a result of poor rainfall this season," Badran said.

He said Prince Abdullah "promised to consider these questions in detail and provide a reply in the near future."

On the political front, the prime minister urged the United States to take urgent concrete action against Israeli plans to settle more Jewish immigrants in Arab Jerusalem.

Describing plans unveiled by the Israeli housing minister to construct thousands of housing units for immigrants in Arab Jerusalem as "another catastrophe for the Arab Nation," the prime minister said: "Building settlements in Arab Jerusalem, which is part of the West Bank occupied by Israel since 1967, is a flagrant violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the status of Jerusalem since (the city) is part of occupied Palestinian land."

Such settlement, he said, "constitutes an open challenge to the international community, which has already denounced Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem in U.N. resolution."

The United States, he said, has also rejected the annexation in recent statements by its officials. However, he said, U.S. President George Bush should translate into actions his statement a week ago opposing Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

On the entry of Jordanians whose passports were confiscated for political reasons, Massa'deh said Jordanian embassies abroad were studying such cases individually and were authorised to recommend to concerned authorities here to issue temporary identity cards to facilitate their entry "provided they had enough proof of their identity and nationality."

Leftist Deputy Mansour Murad earlier said he had a list of names belonging to Jordanians who were not allowed entry to the Kingdom because their expired passports were not renewed after they failed to get security clearance.

Murad complained that "embassies abroad were not re-



Mudar Badran

"If these U.S. statements remain without any context then Israel will continue its aggression and hegemony," he said. "I call on the American government to take action."

He said that Israel was violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 by building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The prime minister said that failure on the part of the international community to take action in this regard should be countered by further pan-Arab solidarity and that any future Arab summit, as King Hussein has said, should serve as a form of international pressure on Israel to stop its illegal practices in the occupied Arab territories.

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Government affirms moves to consolidate liberalisation

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government said Saturday it had lifted a ban on the reentry to the Kingdom of Jordanians whose passports were expired or confiscated, instructed government departments to reinstate civil servants fired for political reasons and began considering the licensing of students' unions at Jordanian universities.

Responding to inquiries by deputies at a session of the Lower House of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massa'deh confirmed that "we have issued instructions to allow their entry. Any complaints must have been related to cases that developed before the instructions were issued. Otherwise, I am prepared to take the issue very seriously."

He pointed out that there were "reservations" concerning certain individuals who do not have appropriate documentation, and said such individuals were subject to clearance from the General Intelligence Department in accordance with a 1985 law.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad Kofahi, complaining the government had not yet reinstated public sector officials dismissed for their political affiliations in accordance with directives from the prime minister, demanded a breakdown of the number of Jordanians fired for political reasons and the number of vacancies that exist in their institutions.

Kofahi, himself dismissed in 1985 from his job as Sharia teacher in Yarmouk University and recently reinstated, called on the government to "adopt a political decision that cancels all previous dismissal orders, defines a specific date for their return to their jobs and pay them their full salaries during the period of their dismissal as 'compensation.'

Massa'deh said the government

had no figures to offer immediately on the number of Jordanians dismissed and the available vacancies. He explained that those who were not reinstated "were not turned down because of political reasons... we have no objection to their reappointment... it is only a matter of finding vacancies."

The interior minister promised to provide numbers as soon as they are available from security authorities.

Massa'deh, who was responding to questions in the absence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran who left earlier Saturday on a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, said the government was considering requests for setting up students' unions at universities.

"The subject has still not evolved and is very much contingent on contacts among students," Massa'deh told the House. "Once they reach a decision (on setting up unions), we will take a decision."

Official sources told the Jordan Times later that the government has already taken a decision to postpone the approval of students' unions until after the drafting of the proposed national charter.

Culture Minister and acting Higher Education Minister Khaled Karaki, asked by Murad to increase the percentage of enrolment of West Bank students in Jordanian universities from the present three per cent, said universities have already accommodated 300 West Bank students while community colleges have accepted 2,000. The government approved a step on Feb. 8 to

(Continued on page 3)

2 shot dead in Jerusalem amid political storm

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police fatally shot two Palestinians in a Jerusalem refugee camp and the Israeli mayor of the occupied Holy City, Teddy Kollek, Saturday blamed U.S. President George Bush for raising tensions with recent statements on the status of the city.

Kollek also noted Palestinian frustration over the lack of progress in peace efforts was mounting in advance of Sunday's inter-cabinet debate.

The Labour Party and the Likud bloc will once again attempt to reach a decision on whether to accept U.S. proposals for holding peace talks in Cairo.

The fatal shootings sparked protests in Arab Jerusalem and occurred as Palestinians marked the start of the 28th month of their uprising.

The violence in Jerusalem was some of the worst in the Holy City since the uprising began.

The incident Saturday comes after Israeli leaders repeated their claim to Arab Jerusalem despite recent U.S. statements that the status of the land was in dispute and should be resolved by negotiation.

President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have said in the past 10 days that Israel's policy of settling Jews in the occupied lands, including Arab Jerusalem, was an impediment to peace.

Bush on March 3 told a Californian news conference "we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem."

Israeli leaders have rejected the statements saying Israel would never "redivide" the city and Kollek called Bush's remarks uniformly and unjustified.

"I feel offended by lack of knowledge about what is going on here on part of very important people who are our friends who have no idea what's happening," Kollek said on Israel Radio.

Kollek said he was confused by U.S. policy. He said on one hand Bush supported the unity of the city and the right of Jews to live there but on the hand referred to Jewish neighbourhoods in Arab Jerusalem as settlements. This, he said, "is inconsistent with the facts."

Kollek also noted, in a statement released to the press, "the impatience of radical elements in

(Continued on page 3)

Arab League meeting put off

TUNIS (Agencies) — A meeting of Arab League foreign ministers scheduled to open Saturday was postponed after a dispute broke out over proposals to transfer the league's headquarters from Tunis back to Cairo.

Officials said the meeting was put off because of differences over whether the question should be placed on the agenda.

The opening session was delayed for two hours to allow delegations to decide whether to accept Egypt's request that the question be discussed.

Diplomats said later the question remained unsettled after discussions by representatives of the 22 league members with Secretary-General Chadih Klibi and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Tunisia, backed by Algeria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) among others, argues that the transfer of the league's headquarters from Cairo to Tunis was decided by an Arab summit in 1979, and says only another summit can decide whether to transfer it back to Cairo.

Egypt's proposal to shift the headquarters of the league was not formally included in the agenda for the meeting, but it was a technicality since delegates attending league council gatherings are free to raise any issue they find fit, according to the league's procedural structure.

Qasem meets counterparts

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who is representing Jordan at the meeting, held talks earlier in the day with his Iraqi counterpart Tareq Aziz and Egyptian counterpart Ezzat Abdul Meguid, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agency said talks among the ministers dealt with the issues on the agenda for the meeting, but did not give any details.

The Tunis meeting was also supposed to have discussed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the threats inherent in Israel's plans to settle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the situation in Lebanon.

The Soviet foreign ministry was not available for comment.

Jordan Brotherhood leader denied entry to Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A leading member of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood was barred entry to Egypt by security officials at Cairo airport earlier this week, according to informed sources.

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa, the general guide of the Brotherhood, had to spend the night at an airport hotel before returning home the next day, the sources said.

One of the sources said the ban of Khalifa was a result of "previous decisions" taken by the Egyptian government.

Egyptian officials have promised to settle the matter, particularly in view of the close ties between Jordan and Egypt, the source said.

Khalifa was quoted by the AP as saying that security officials welcomed him on arrival at Cairo airport, but as he was walking out, an official "came up to me

and insisted I accompany him because, he said, there was a little problem."

The Islamic leader, who was accompanied by his wife on the trip, said Egyptian officials took his passport and put him in a room at the airport for several hours "without telling me what was wrong," the AP reported.

Eventually, he asked to return to Amman on the first available flight. His passport was returned to him on the plane. Khalifa said the incident took place Wednesday afternoon and he returned to Jordan Thursday morning.

He said he was surprised at "such a strange action, especially because I'm a frequent visitor to Cairo and I visited there recently and had no problems whatsoever."

"But I am sure that Egyptian officials will correct this mistake very soon," Khalifa said.

He said that rainfall in the major southern towns of Ma'an and Tafith this winter season was estimated at 30 per cent of the annual average. "This is disastrous for cattle farmers in the south," the deputy said.

A government official confirmed the setting up of the four-member committee and said the government was "systematically working to cover vulnerable areas in the economy, although it has not yet established a comprehensive economic policy."

The official, Cabinet member, said that apart from the budget, the government is "working on all fronts to respond to major problematic areas and is hardly having a chance to look at the situation in a comprehensive way."

He explained that Prime Minister Mudar Badran was "overwhelmed with work — receiving officials, citizens and looking into almost every issue and complaint by people so as to keep his doors open to the public." He said deputies were also "keeping the premier busy with their own complaints which they convey on behalf of people."

The official told the Jordan Times that "while public pressure on Parliament is beginning to ease, pressure on the government is increasing every day, sometimes making it difficult for us to do our work."

Lithuania parliament on verge of proclaiming independence

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — A hastily called session of Lithuania's nationalist-dominated parliament, Algirdas Brazauskas, that an independent republic would have to conduct its trade with Moscow in scarce hard currency.

He also estimated Lithuania's compensation bill to the Soviet Union at 21 billion rubles (\$33 billion) and suggested that parts of its territory would be ceded to other Soviet republics.

The debate on proclaiming independence and electing a Lithuanian president was due to begin Sunday, although there was no indication when the proclamation would be issued.

"Talk on compensation and territorial concessions has many people here worried," said Gediminas Drukevicius, an official of the mass pro-independence movement Sajudis, which commands a majority in the Baltic republic's parliament.

The deputies want to make certain of their stand on this before any decision is taken in the parliament."

The session was hurriedly arranged before next week's sitting of the Soviet national parliament which is due to broaden Soviet President Mikhail Gor-

bachev's powers.

Gorbachev has told the head of Lithuania's parliament, Algirdas Brazauskas, that an independent republic would have to conduct its trade with Moscow in scarce hard currency.

U.S., Israel plan operation to free hostages — Tehran paper

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The United States and Israel were planning a military mission to try to rescue Western hostages held in Lebanon, a hardline Iranian newspaper said Saturday.

Kayhan International said a recent flurry of reports about the 17 Westerners believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon was engineered by Washington in a bid to prepare the U.S. public for possible casualties resulting from a rescue operation.

"A rescue operation (would)... end the so-called crisis with the death of at least the American hostages," the newspaper said in an editorial, reported by the Iranian News Agency (IRNA).

"The Bush administration would then be in a position to re-explain its long suffering over the hostage issue, the patience two administrations had shown and the necessity, as in Panama and Libya, to stand up for Americans," the paper said, referring to U.S. military operations against both countries.

"If the U.S. and Israel embark on military adventurism the hostages will (in) fact be a pretext for crippling the Islamic movement," IRNA, received in Nicosia, quoted the anti-Western Kayhan International as saying.

There are eight Americans among the hostages, including journalist Terry Anderson who starts his sixth year in captivity on March 16.

A senior pro-Iranian Muslim cleric, widely believed to have influence over Lebanese hostage-takers, was quoted by a Beirut newspaper on Saturday as saying the reports about the hostages were encouraging.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlullah, spiritual mentor of Hizbullah (Party of God), told Al Liwa: "... we imagine that there are encouraging signs... from the concerned parties or those close

to them."

The shadowy Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds American hostages Joseph James Cicippio and Edward Austin Tracy, criticised Fadlullah earlier this week for urging the release of the Western hostages.

The White House admitted Thursday night that President George Bush had been hoaxed by a telephone caller, with whom he discussed the hostage issue, purporting to be Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

White House telephone hoax

Rafsanjani Friday gloated over the hoax: "America is very much in need of talking to Iran and, praise be to God, is deprived of... Iran is so important that the biggest power in the world, the biggest bully on Earth tries to contact its officials by telephone."

The Iranian president and newspapers, including the Tehran Times which is close to Rafsanjani, had earlier indicated that an end to the hostage crisis may be in sight.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Rafsanjani's boasting raised new questions about Tehran's intentions. "One day we hear moderate points of view (from Iran), the next day it's antagonistic ones," he said.

Fitzwater said the president accepted the bogus telephone call from the White House suspected the caller was an impostor.

The spokesman explained that Bush was willing to take the call "on the off chance" that it might

be genuine and could lead to a break in the hostage case.

Although the CBS News report of the incident, which was confirmed by the White House on March 8, was embarrassing, Fitzwater said the president thinks it is probably useful to have the American people know that he's willing to follow up on these kinds of things.

"While hoax phone calls are always a little embarrassing and difficult to deal with, nevertheless, we are willing to make the effort and go the extra step," he said.

"I think that's important to the hostage families to know that President Bush's policy is firm, but he is personally committed to follow up every opportunity to get the release of the hostages," the spokesman emphasised.

Fitzwater said he did not know of any other hoax calls involving the president, but he noted that hoax calls frequently come into the White House. "They come in spurts; I had a flurry of perhaps a half dozen" in January and February, he told reporters.

"All these kinds of phone calls are checked out very carefully," he said. "While he could not go into detail, he said, "Suffice to say, we did check this out from a number of angles, including di-

rectly with the Swiss."

"Unless our demands are met by Monday, March 12, we will execute one of the Swiss hostages," he said, hanging up when asked who he was and where he was calling from.

Mohammad Hariri was jailed for life in Switzerland in February 1989 for hijacking an Air Afrique jetliner in 1987 and killing a French passenger after the aircraft landed in Geneva.

Naccache is a Lebanese who led an Iranian-directed team that bungled a 1980 bid to assassinate Iranian exile leader Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris. He is serving a life sentence.

Fitzwater's telephone call was the first in which anyone had linked both Naccache and Hariri's freedom as conditions for releasing hostages.

These sources however, said it was possible some planes took turns with those at Bagram so the total number of rebel aircraft

Swiss hostages held in Lebanon unless two Lebanese jailed in Switzerland and France were freed.

Statements from the Foreign Ministry and the ICRC said officials were meeting to discuss the situation and were pursuing contacts in the Middle East, but there was no evidence to link hostages Emanuel Christen and Elie Enriquez with the group calling itself the Action Group for the Release of Hariri.

Enriquez, 23, and Christen, 33, were kidnapped last Oct. 6 outside the ICRC's orthopedic centre in Sidon where they helped artificial limbs for victims of Lebanon's long conflict.

The threat was made in an anonymous phone call late Friday to a Western news agency in Nicosia, Cyprus. There was no way to check the identity or the whereabouts of the caller.

"We demand the release of mujahid (holy warrior) Mohammad Hariri from Swiss prison, and the release of mujahid Anis Naccache," the caller said, speaking in a Lebanese accent.

"Unless our demands are met by Monday, March 12, we will execute one of the Swiss hostages," he said, hanging up when asked who he was and where he was calling from.

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Main Afghan airbase stays shut four days after failed coup attempt

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's main airbase of Bagram, north of the capital Kabul, remained closed Saturday, four days after a failed coup attempt against President Najibullah, government sources said.

Rebel military planes flew throughout Tuesday and Wednesday from Bagram to bomb the presidential palace and other military installations in Kabul before the government said loyal troops captured the base.

Bagram had more than 60 military planes when the coup led by Defence Minister Colonel-General Shahwaz Tanai was launched Tuesday.

Tanai, a hardline Marxist opposed to compromise with Muslim guerrillas fighting the government, was sacked after the coup attempt and was still at large.

He had been at odds with Najibullah over attempts to moderate the government's Marxist philosophy and to appease the western-backed rebels.

The Afghan government has accused Tanai of conspiring with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Afghan guerrilla leaders battling the Soviet-supported Kabul government.

Government sources said only about five planes staged the air raid during the coup attempt.

Some were reported to have been forced to fly, but they did not bomb and simply landed at other airports, the sources said.

Pilots loyal to Najibullah bombed Bagram runways making it difficult for rebel pilots to take off, the sources said.

This explains why the number of rebel planes was limited. Diplomatic sources said at least five MiG-21 and Sukhoi-24 Soviet-built planes took part in the bombing.

These sources however, said it was possible some planes took turns with those at Bagram so the total number of rebel aircraft

over the capital did not exceed the estimated number.

Najibullah has purged his ruling party after the most serious attempts yet to overthrow the administration.

He told a news conference

Thursday the coup attempt was crushed and pledged to pursue "national reconciliation" with Mujahideen guerrillas who have waged civil war for 11 years.

He said the politburo of his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was "united in its resolution to continue its struggle to the end."

Najibullah said 25 civilians were killed and 150 were wounded. He declined to detail casualties among loyalist troops.

Some rebel pilots may have flown to northern air strips, he said, adding: "We are looking for them."

By Saturday Afghan authorities were still not prepared to show the Bagram base to foreign journalists.

The government Friday allowed the journalists to see damage to the presidential palace as well as to the Defence Ministry, Tanai's former power base.

Najibullah has set up a special tribunal for an early trial of Tanai and other coup plotters, the official Bakhtar News Agency said Saturday.

Najibullah was working when coup began

Najibullah had just finished lunch when bomb came metres from toppling his government.

Shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday, several bombs rocked the presidential palace, killing four soldiers from the elite Presidential Guard. One cluster of three small bombs gouged out two craters and gutted an administrative office four metres from where Najibullah was working.

The force of the blast cracked the walls of Najibullah's office,

blows apart."

"Whoever did it wasn't a good Muslim," one man shouted from a crowd that had gathered around Mallem.

More bombs fell throughout the afternoon. From the headquarters at the Ministry of Defence, Tanai sneaked to an airbase north of the city.

The early hours of the coup appeared to favour the mutineers. Bomb at Kabul Radio forced officials to switch broadcasting locations. Parliamentarian and alleged coup participant Saleh Mohammad Zeray went to Radio Kabul to announce that Tanai's forces had won. He was arrested with the statement in his pocket, a government source said.

Bakhtar reported Friday that he had been purged of his party posts.

Withering fire from loyalist tanks and rockets destroyed the coup headquarters at the Defence Ministry, located in the pastel Darulaman Palace, once the royal residence.

Loyalists tanks and soldiers with hand-held rockets surrounded the building during a 24-hour assault. On Friday, the building was a shell. Holes gaped in the facade.

Crossfire also destroyed the nearby Tajbign Palace.

Government troops also destroyed the airbase to which Tanai had fled, devastating it with Soviet-made rockets.

Then the arrests began.

Five members of the politburo, including Tanai, were purged from their posts. Some escaped and some have disappeared. Two Central Committee members also were removed.

Squads of security forces entered some government housing projects and arrested scores of alleged participants, government sources said.

One trial of several individuals began Thursday. A special tribunal set up by Najibullah will handle the case.

U.S. attacks Syrian leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department has said that Syrian President Hafez Assad, in denouncing democratic change in Eastern Europe and calling for an endless war against Israel, "is out of step with the enormously promising changes unfolding around the world."

Margaret Tutwiler, the department's spokeswoman, said the people of the Middle East, including the people of Syria, have "no need for more bellicose rhetoric."

Rather, she said, they need "real statesmanship and commitment to the practical steps needed to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue leading to a comprehensive peace settlement."

Assad, addressing a youth rally in Damascus Thursday, called for an unceasing holy war against Israel and said the changes

sweeping Eastern Europe are a boon to the Jewish state.

Assad denounced the recent wave of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, saying migrating Jews would force Palestinians from their homeland.

"Let us now perceive that Syria was the first beneficiary, among all nations of the world, of the international changes that have taken place," Assad said.

He was referring to merger plans, set for Nov. 30, which have brought demands of Islam and Marxism face to face.

Ms. Tutwiler said: "President Assad's criticism is 'out of step with the enormously promising changes unfolding around the world as well as with the serious effort to move toward peace in the Middle East."

"President Assad ought to be committing himself to peace, not war," she said.

Newsman sentenced to death in Iraq on spying charges

LONDON (AP) — A London-based journalist has been sentenced to death in Iraq on spying charges and a British nurse has been jailed for 15 years for allegedly helping him, the Foreign Office said Saturday.

An Iraqi who was in contact with journalists Farzad Bazoft in Baghdad was given a 10 year sentence for communicating government secrets to a foreigner, it said.

Bazoft, a 31-year-old stateless Iranian exile who travels with British documents and works for London's weekly Observer newspaper, was arrested in September while investigating reports of an explosion at an Iraqi military

Despite challenges, Yemenis want union

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Aan that despite challenges "there is a strong Yemeni will and a massive popular backing" for union of North and South Yemen.

He was referring to merger plans, set for Nov. 30, which have brought demands of Islam and Marxism face to face.

Leaders of the two countries appear undaunted however.

North Yemen is an Arab country of 9.2 million devout Muslims of whom an estimated 30 per cent could be considered fundamentalists.

South Yemen is the Arab World's only Marxist state.

Saleh and South Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidi, the secretary-general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, have been meeting for three days amid hints that the two leaders were seeking ways of speeding up the unity process.

After two days of cloistered talks in the North Yemen resort of Taiz, the two leaders Saturday moved to South Yemen's capital, Aden, in what one newspaper editor called "a surprise political demonstration of support from the top for unity."

The Islamic fundamentalists in North Yemen, commonly referred to as the "religious current," have come out in strong protest against the draft constitution of the unified state because it does not specify the Islamic religion as the "sole" source of legislation.

The draft unified constitution only refers to Islam as the principal source for legislation.

People's congress elects Qadhafi as supreme leader

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya's people's parliament has closed after an acrimonious row between the executive and deputies over financing the welfare state, with neither side the clear winner.

The fundamentalists have been clamouring for explanation as to why this negates the Islamic Shari'a Law of cutting of hands of thieves.

Recorded tapes of fiery speeches by Sheikh Abdul Meguid Al Zindani, are in wide circulation in North Yemen at present.

This Islamic force in North Yemen contrasts sharply with policies in South Yemen which, once it gained independence from Britain in 1967, forged close links with the Soviet Union and adopted Marxism as a policy of life.

While South Yemen pays lip service to Islam, it has become a non-religious society. Aden women do not have to wear veils, there is no segregation of men and women, and the Islamic injunction that a man may have up to four wives is curtailed by a law which provides for a second wife only in case of sterility or terminal illness.

So, thousands of South Yemeni women took to the streets on woman's day in Aden clamouring for guarantees that unity will not mean annulment of their civil status law.

The women's federation President Aida Ali Saeed said the unified constitution "must clearly acknowledge equality between man and woman." She denounced "the conspiracies by forces of darkness and reaction that are enemies of the woman."

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said Lt.-Col. Mohammad Husain, who was on duty at the time.

Arar, Mahjoub discuss IPU

CAIRO (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saleman Arar met with his Egyptian counterpart Rifat Al Mahjoub on matters related to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting due to open in Cyprus next month.

They also discussed sending Arab delegations to foreign countries including Eastern Europe to discuss the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The idea of sending such delegations was discussed earlier by the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries at their meeting in Amman. Mahjoub had been entrusted with

leading the Arab delegation on these visits.

Arar attended the opening of the African Parliamentary Union's executive committee meetings which convened to discuss the Soviet Jewish emigration and other regional issues including Lebanon.

Arar, who is accompanied by a four-member delegation was due to visit the city of Alexandria Sunday for meetings with local government officials and prominent public figures.

In a statement after his meetings in Cairo, Arar said he extended an invitation to Mahjoub to visit Jordan in the summer.

'Al Quds,' though 'illegal,' treated as foreign daily

AMMAN (J.T.) — A newspaper published and distributed in Jordan in violation of press and publications laws was being treated as a foreign newspaper and was subject to censorship, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzedin said Saturday.

Responding to a call by Amman Deputy Faris Nabulsi to ban the "Al Quds" weekly newspaper, Izzedin said that although it was not licensed in accordance with the press and publications laws, "the decision to print it in Jordan was taken upon oral instructions issued by the Prime Minister to the information minister in 1987."

The paper, published by a Palestinian breakaway group opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, is perceived by many readers here as an anti-Arafat propaganda tool.

There was no indication in the minister's response that he will ban the newspaper.

Atallah Atallah, a PLO leader

who split from the mainstream Fatah movement during fighting between factions loyal to Arafat and those opposed to his policies, is known to have financed the newspaper when it started publication in 1987, soon after he moved his base to Amman.

Atallah, better known by his *nom de guerre* "Abu Zain," held several rallies in Amman aimed at undermining support for the PLO chairman in the Kingdom. He moved to Jordan soon after the Kingdom's decision in 1986 to end coordination with the PLO on a peaceful strategy to settle the Middle East problem following the Feb. 11, 1985 agreement.

Atallah's movement in Jordan, now restricted due to improved Jordanian-PLO ties, was not publicly supported by the government.

However, according to Saturday's statement by the minister, then Prime Minister Zaid Rifai issued the order to allow the publication and distribution of Al Quds in Jordan.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UAE minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Electricity and Water Resources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamid Bea-Nasser arrived in Amman Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan. He will hold talks with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Tafer and other officials on cooperation between Jordan and the UAE in electric power industry.

Faqir leaves for Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir left Saturday for Libya at the head of a delegation from his ministry at the invitation of the International Islamic Daawa Society. Ministry of Awqaf sources said that Faqir will sign an agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Awqaf and the Libyan society to boost bilateral cooperation in propagating Islam and in religious guidance and preaching. The agreement, they said, will also provide for cooperation in setting up Sharia (Islamic law) colleges for training religious leaders, and will exchange information and publications and hold joint conferences and seminars on religious affairs.

Human rights group opens course

TUNIS (J.T.) — The Arab Human Rights Institute Monday will open a training course here entitled "Human Rights — How to Protect Them." Experience and experiments of various human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, will be reviewed by the participants. Lectures from Jordan will participate in the week-long course.

Dughmi leaves for Ghana

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi left Amman for Ghana Saturday to take part in the 10th conference of the Afro-Asian Organisation which will open Sunday. The week-long conference will discuss subjects included in a report by the organisation's technical committee on the organisation's activities over the past years and a plan for the next three years. The committee groups Jordan, Egypt, India and Ethiopia.

Jordan displays industrial goods

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan is displaying samples of its industrial products at an international trade exhibition which opened in Cairo Saturday. A total of 130 Jordanian companies and factories are taking part in the exhibition in which 30 other countries are participating. Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Naseeb Al Nimer said samples of food stuff, clothing, plastics, potash, pharmaceuticals, furniture, paper, carpet and other products are being displayed at the exhibition, which was opened by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki. Nimer said 1,200 companies from Arab and foreign countries were exhibiting samples of their products and Jordanian businessmen were expected to conclude several important contracts to sell their products.

Jordanian displays art

IRBD (J.T.) — A painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohamed Al Abidi opened at Yarmouk University Saturday. On display are 27 paintings depicting the environment and cultural life in the country. Several university officials were present at the opening of the five-day exhibition.

Tour operators honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tour operators and travel and tourist businesses in Jordan were honoured at a ceremony held at the Gateway Hotel in recognition of their role in promoting tourism and travel to Jordan. The ceremony, organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian (RJ), was attended by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kaburiti, Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat and RJ Director-General Husam Abu Ghazaleh who distributed certificates of merit to the selected group. RJ offices in various countries act as tourist offices providing services on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism.

Crown Prince visits south, briefed on region's needs

KARAK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday paid a surprise visit to Karak governorate where he inspected Karak hospital and visited students from Mu'ta University who were receiving treatment after a road accident Friday evening.

The Regent later visited the first instance court in Karak, the departments of social development and the Jordan cooperative organisation and was briefed on their activities.

Officials discussed with the Prince the governorate's needs, especially for animal feed for local stock breeders in light of the

drought that hit the country.

The Regent urged concerned authorities to double the amount of animal feed distributed by the concerned ministries and called for providing all possible facilities to farmers to help them maintain their business.

Prince Hassan later called at a girl's school in the city and discussed methods of developing the education system.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Interior Salameh Hammoud accompanied Prince Hassan on his tour of Karak Governorate.

The government has recently set up a ministerial committee led

Financial markets meeting calls for Arab integration

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab meeting which opened in Amman Saturday heard urgent calls on Arab governments to take speedy action towards economic and financial integration in view of the ongoing moves around the world to create economic groupings and the expected impact of a 1992 united Europe on the Arab World.

The opening session of the three-day meeting by the Arab Financial Markets Federation (AFMF) was attended by delegates from eight Arab states and specialised organisations. Prince Hassan was briefed on procedures in these departments and institutions. Prince Hassan also visited Taifah government and called at Taifah Chamber of Commerce.

The Crown Prince also visited Ma'an governorate where he inspected work at some government institutions and departments. Prince Hassan was briefed on procedures in these departments and institutions.

Addressing the opening session, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Arab economic integration had become a must and Arab governments should "direct their countries' resources towards serving the Arab Nation as a whole."

The minister called on Arab governments to facilitate the flow of Arab capital and to coordinate economic planning policies that can benefit joint Arab projects.

"Europe's aspirations for unity in 1992 and the impact of such unity on the Arab World in terms of trade and investments should

serve as an incentive for the Arabs to take speedy action to achieve economic and financial integration," the minister said.

Referring to the situation in Jordan, the minister said the private sector here was being offered a leading role in the Kingdom's free-enterprise open market. "Jordan is now involved in implementing an integrated programme designed to stimulate the economic sector by encouraging investments and exports," Jardaneh said.

This programme, he said, will offer good chances to investors from Jordan and other Arab countries, especially with the devalued Jordanian dinar, the Jordanian income tax system, exemptions offered to investors from Arab states and other privileges.

"Arab investors are given privileges and incentives as well as tax exemptions on equal footing with Jordanians and they are allowed to transfer profits made from their business in Jordan," the minister pointed out.

The minister called on Arab governments to facilitate the flow of Arab capital and to coordinate economic planning policies that can benefit joint Arab projects.

Taking part in the meetings are delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, and Tunisia in addition to the AFMF and several financial institutions of the Arab World.

Activist makes triumphant return to electricity union

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After 17 years of struggle to reinstate himself as member of the Electricity Workers Association, Walid Khayatt did not only regain his membership; he also won the highest number of votes in the association's elections held Friday, and is expected to be named the president of the association soon.

Khayatt ran as head of the "Salvation Bloc" against incumbent president of the association Samir Qardan, who led the "Labour Unionist Bloc," and Mohammad Hussein Oudeh, head of the "Reform Bloc."

The Salvation Bloc was able to secure 10 of the 11 seats of the executive committee of the association. Qardan, who also holds the position of secretary-general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, won the 11th seat.

The Salvation Bloc stood out by its fielding of 15 candidates for the 11-seat executive committee "allowing for even more democracy and more freedom of choice," Khayatt told the Jordan Times in an interview Saturday.

A large number of workers thronged the association's headquarters in downtown Amman and shouted slogans in support of Khayatt, who promised that he would seek to address their grievances.

Khayatt was head of the association from 1962 to 1972 when a decision by the martial law Economic Security Committee disbanded all executive committee of the 17 different labour unions in the Kingdom.

"From that time and until Jordan initiated its democratic drive last year, the labour associations

had suffered from continued interference by security departments and I was the victim of one of these interferences," Khayatt said.

Two other electricity workers' unionists were reinstated as members of the association during a general committee meeting held on Feb. 3, 1989, which was attended by 1,600 of the 2,000 members of the association.

In that meeting the workers stressed the need to "democratise" their own union and the election of a new leadership.

They decided to adopt several steps towards reaching their goals and formed a 121-member "salvation committee" entrusted with the duty of forming a "united unionist front which would work on saving the association," Khayatt said.

The general committee meeting also decided to reject the association's 1989 fiscal budget and to form a seven-member committee to reevaluate the records of the association and present a report to an extraordinary meeting of the general committee within a month.

"As for dealing with the demands of the workers the general committee meeting decided to allocate this task to the new association's executive committee after its election," Khayatt said.

"These decisions do not only mean the return of dismissed unionists but is a real victory for the democratic process which started in Jordan last year," Khayatt said.

Khayatt added that the association will endeavour to "reform all irregularities which dominated the labour movement during the absence of democracy." He did not elaborate what the "irregularities" were.



Abdul Karim Kaburiti

Council to help private sector role in tourism

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kaburiti said Saturday the government has decided to set up a Tourism Development Council to focus on the private sector in activating the tourism industry in Jordan.

Kaburiti told the Jordan Times the cabinet had approved the establishment of the council which includes representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, owners and managers of hotels, travel and tourism agents and the Jet (transport) Company.

He said that Royal Jordanian is a major contributor to the council which is also financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Kaburiti said the council would begin to function with a \$300,000 budget to "draw up a workable strategy to activate tourism in the coming few years." He said he will hold a press conference following the first meeting of the council's board, to discuss the goals of the council in preparation for the opening.

The minister said he had proposed to the cabinet a plan to make his ministry commercially profitable by making the optimum use of its available resources. He said the cabinet was expected to discuss the proposal soon.

Kaburiti, who made an unscheduled inspection tour of downtown hotels, museums and the Roman amphitheatre Friday, said the tour was aimed at "assessing the preparedness of these facilities, particularly small hotels, that would accommodate waves of Iraqi tourists we expect to receive this summer."

The minister said that the number of Iraqi tourists was expected to mushroom in the wake of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's decision last month to lift the ban on travel for Iraqi citizens.

Government

(Continued from page 1)

increase to five per cent the percentage of acceptance in community colleges.

"The question of increasing the ratio is something that will have to wait until the return of the higher education minister," Karaki said.

Earlier Saturday, House committee appointed to look into petitions contesting the election of deputies in three constituencies, turned down two requests and accepted the withdrawal of a

third complaint. The first committee rejected a petition against Deputy Nawaf Khawalech of Mafrag Constituency presented by Abdullah Akhu Ersheidah. The same committee rejected a petition by Mohammad Salameh Abu Khorza contesting the election of all Zarqa deputies.

The second committee turned down a petition by Nasr Hamaideh contesting the election of Deputy Mohammad Fares Tarawneh of Karak Governorate.

A mediation committee maintained separate meetings with Aoun and Geagea in an effort to consolidate the ceasefire and form a "national authority" grouping representatives of the warring factions and independent figures to work out a political settlement to the intra-Christian conflict.

Al Wahar reported major differences between Aoun and Geagea on proposed members of the authority. The U.S. State Department said Friday it was encouraged by the decision of Aoun to abandon warfare for dialogue and called on him to submit to the authority of the country's government.

"We hope that Gen. Aoun is serious about abandoning violence. The Lebanese people have suffered enough," said Margaret Tutwiler, the department's spokeswoman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabhaan at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Siham Al Saedi at hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Women and Politics" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Al About Eve" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Cooperative to buy lamb for breeding

By Sana Abu Huwaij

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has announced plans to buy 2,500 healthy lambs with weights ranging between 15-20 kilogrammes each for the purpose of fattening and resale in the local market, according to Tal.

"So far, the organisation has not received tempting offers from shepherds or other cooperating associations," Ghazi Kan'an, director of the project, told the Jordan Times. "In this case, the organisation is going to form committees or groups and send them to the countryside in order to buy the sheep directly from the farmers."

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabit recently allowed the export of sheep to other countries, especially to Gulf states. But Kan'an pointed out that for the time being his organisation will only provide sheep for the local market.

Two shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

the Shufat refugee camp in Arab Jerusalem, the only camp within Jerusalem's city limits, where residents said police opened fire Friday night and again Saturday morning to quell stone-throwing

demonstrations.

Camp residents and U.N. officials identified the victims as Mahmud Fawzi Abu Khalife, 21, and Sufian Mohammad Abdullah Khalil. They said at least two other Palestinians were wounded, one critically.

The agenda includes a general review of wholesale market places, the effect of having a fixed price index for crops and an evaluation of various agricultural cropping patterns used in the country.

Experts and officials participating in the meeting

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Time for compassion and goodwill in Lebanon

FINALLY, General Michel Aoun saw the light of day and turned conciliatory towards his Christian and Muslim rivals. After unsuccessfully battling Syrian-supported forces for over six months last year in a bid to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon and then turning his guns on his own co-religionists in an inconclusive bid to oust the militia of Samir Geagea from the Christian enclave, Aoun has finally dropped the military option to resolve his disagreements with the other Lebanese factions. While Aoun has yet to accept the Arab League-brokered Taif accord of last year, he is at least no longer openly and categorically opposed to it as such. By calling for dialogue with his enemies in Lebanon on the basis of a variation of the Taif accord, Aoun is signalling to his partners and foes in the peace process in Lebanon that any military resolution of the conflict is definitely and effectively out of question. This is indeed a good beginning, albeit it came after paying a very high cost in terms of Lebanese lives, morale and property. Aoun's show-down with Geagea alone claimed the lives of more than 750 Lebanese and more than 2,000 injured. This is not to mention the thousands of Lebanese that were killed or injured earlier on in 1989 and before. This has been a terrible price to pay in order for Aoun to accept the voice of reason and yield to the calls for dialogue. But if indeed the end of the last spasm of violence and destruction will usher in an entirely new era in Lebanon, then the pain and anguish that ensued from all the previous bloodletting and destruction becomes that much less in vain. This new mood in Lebanon therefore must not be allowed to slip away and the other Lebanese factions are duty-bound to reciprocate the conciliatory moves by Aoun by extending their hands to him in a new spirit of goodwill and harmony. By offering to make the Taif accord the basis of a new dialogue among all the players in the 15-year-old Lebanese tragedy, Aoun is in effect declaring the defeat of all his misguided attempts to derail that painstakingly arrived at agreement.

The General now needs a face-saving formula and his Lebanese antagonists must not refrain from being generous in offering it to him for the sake of Lebanon and the Lebanese people who have suffered just too much already and paid dearly with their very lives and properties. To begin with, the tone of the reactions to Aoun's new conciliatory statements must likewise be positive lest the new emerging psychology against the continuation of war and destruction in Lebanon slip away once again. In particular, all the Lebanese leaderships must abstain from rubbing salt on the wounds of Aoun's failures or gloating over his military defeats. This is a time for compassion and goodwill and an opportunity to manifest the highest standards of quiet diplomacy and to stay away from rhetorics at all costs. Maybe at long last there will be peace in Lebanon and that a rare opportunity to reconstruct a new Lebanon on the ashes of old Lebanon has finally presented itself.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the continued Jewish immigration in Palestine in the light of King Hussein's statement to the American television network ABC. The King dwelt on the dangers inherent in the immigration and the consequences on the future of the whole Arab region, the paper said. The King reiterated the need for the international community to interfere and bring in peace to the region instead of allowing settlers on Arab land, the paper added. The King's call, it said, came during his working visit to Britain where he plans to discuss the question of Jewish immigration and the Middle East issue in general with the British leaders, seeking assistance and backing from European leaders for a peace settlement. The paper noted in particular King Hussein's warnings that the Israelis were now involved in preparations for absorbing thousands of Jews who are eventually bound to settle on Arab land, warnings echoed on Thursday by the Scandinavian countries which said that the settlement of Jews on Arab land was a violation of international law. The paper said that the King is keen on bringing the whole picture about the Middle East to the attention of the European leaders as part of his continued endeavours to bring about peace to the Arab region and end Israel's occupation of Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper expects Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun to fall any minute now following his acceptance of an end to the fighting against the government of President Hrawi and the western sector of Beirut. Tareq Masarweh says that the Lebanese will no doubt ask why should Aoun accept a ceasefire and express desire to reach a consensus with the western sector of the city after causing so much loss of life and a great deal of destruction fighting all other factions in Beirut. He says that Aoun also has now agreed that he would be ready to accept the Taef agreement and reach a compromise with the Syrians, but what is not clear is why he had not accepted this situation in the first place, and why he had fought the Lebanese Forces when he knew that his military power was limited. The writer says that the world has now lost interest in Lebanon because the Lebanese themselves continue to fight one another and do not want to achieve peace in their country. The Lebanese commander failed to realise, this, and failed also to realise that he turned down peaceful efforts and agreements offered to him through the Taef meeting, and preferred to maintain the sufferings and carry on the destruction of Lebanon, the writer continues. After all these battles in the eastern and the western sectors of Beirut, says the writer, Aoun has achieved nothing and it is only a matter of time when the army general will face his end.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Governments should respect Central Bank autonomy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

CENTRAL Banks world-wide enjoy varying degrees of autonomy as independent institutions charged with certain responsibilities related to monetary policy. The most important implication of this autonomy is that the treasury should not assume that the Central Bank shall provide funds as and when needed. Governments that need more money should find ways and means to increase their revenues from taxes and other sources or decrease their expenditure or a combination of both. If the need was seasonal, i.e. within certain months of the year, the regular advance, up to 25 per cent of domestic revenue, should be more than enough to overcome the problem or fine-tune the fluctuation of cash flow at the treasury. If the need was to finance certain projects, governments can borrow capital provided they can establish the feasibility of the project and its ability to generate enough cash to service the debt in interest and installments.

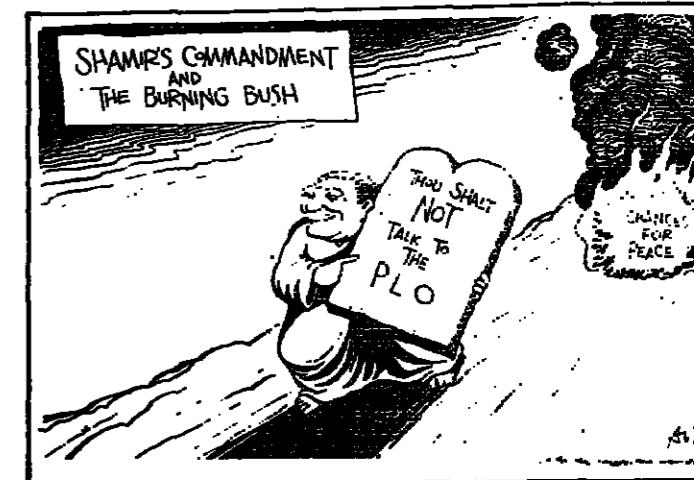
The Central Bank of Jordan for one was born independent. Later on however, it started to give in to the pressure of the treasury. It agreed to lend more than the ceiling allowed by law. It covered itself by decisions taken behind closed doors by the Economic Security Committee which over-stretched its authority to matters beyond its jurisdiction. It followed that the dinar's cover in gold and foreign exchange dropped below the limit specified by the law. This gap between the dinar's real value and its cover grew year after year until we reached the point of crisis in

1988. The autonomy of the Central Bank is not decided solely within the Central Bank. There is nothing to protect the governor of the Central Bank from removal before the end of his five-year term as had actually happened to every governor of CBJ so far. Autonomy of the Central Bank is a government policy. The government should take advance measures to prevent the situation from deteriorating to the point where the Central Bank finds itself compelled to deliver the funds to the treasury against the law.

If the government did not charge and collect enough taxes, nor curbed its expenditure to be within its means, and therefore became short of money, no one in his right mind would expect the Central Bank to dishonour the treasury cheques and mark them: "Refer to drawer due to insufficient funds". The Central Bank could not of course refuse to fund the salaries of the civil servants and military personnel at the end of a given month because the treasury's account was overdrawn. Such a position is beyond the power of the Central Bank and could not be the responsibility of the bank's governor. Therefore it does not make sense to hold the ex-governor of the Central Bank personally accountable, as the Senator Ishaq Farhan suggested in his budget speech at the Upper House of Parliament last month.

There is a limitation to the autonomy of the Central Bank that is decided by the government which should plan its cash flow on the basis that the Central Bank is not a bottomless mine for money. The government should be aware of its future needs and should do something about them instead of waiting until the last moment, putting the Central Bank in the embarrassing situation of having to break the law in order to save the face of a reckless government. We can reach such a situation only when the resignation of the bank's governor, in protest, can shock a government, and when public opinion is strong and ready to protect the governor from a greedy government that fails to plan its finances.

However, it has to be pointed out that the autonomy of the Central Bank is one thing, and the separation between fiscal and monetary policies as advocated by the Upper House of Parliament Finance Committee is something else. The autonomy of the Central Bank is desirable and should therefore be protected by the Central Bank itself, by the government and by the public at large. The separation of the monetary policy from the fiscal policy on the other hand is not possible nor desirable. Both policies complement each other, and can support or offset each other. The overall economic programme of the government should coordinate the two policies to lead the economy in a unified direction.



What about self-determination? What about the Helsinki agreement where the U.S. asked the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate?"

He also thinks that the role a united Europe will play in the area will be significant. "Europe will become the new power to be reckoned with in the world. We in the West Bank are already dealing with Europe directly on some commercial levels. They have insisted on dealing with us directly as we asked, not via Israel. Europe has and will increasingly have economic power that cannot be overlooked."

He believes that while much attention has been paid recently to human rights and political events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the Middle East and the Palestine scene in particular has not been forgotten. "In fact it is, in some ways, the most convenient time in history for us. Israel was being supported because it represented the strategic interests to the West. It supposedly guarded the area from Communism and other 'undesirable elements' on behalf of the U.S. Israel was the so-called 'only bastion of democracy.' After the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and after the recent political changes in Jordan, that no longer holds," he says.

Those interested in aborting a peaceful settlement have three things in mind, says Abu Zayyad. They want the intifada to dwindle in pace and activity; they want to wait another year and a half for U.S. Congressional elections, hoping the number of Israeli supporters in Congress will be increased; and they are waiting for more Soviet Jews to arrive. If these things happen then a peace settlement will be most unlikely.

Abu Zayyad believes that time has not quite run out for a peaceful solution. "I do believe that the U.S. can be convinced to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to the U.S. The way it stands now the Soviet Jews are being forced to leave Israel, and after the recent political changes in Jordan, that no longer holds," he says.

"They have no other choice."

Most U.S. Jews favour land for peace

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — A leading American political columnist and author says that more than half of American Jews want to see Israel "back on the course for which it was created — which was to be a homeland for people who needed and wanted a homeland."

"It has to be understood that U.S. policy should be directed towards these people and not the people who feel that the only meaning of Zionism is the acquisition of more territory," Milton Viorst told members of the Women's National Democratic Club in Washington March 8. Viorst is the Middle East correspondent for The New Yorker magazine and author of a recent book on Israel entitled "The Sands of Sorrow."

Viorst said that a recent poll of the American Jewish community on Middle East questions refutes the argument that American Jews demand that the U.S. government uncritically support the policies of the Israelis who are in power. Some of its findings, he pointed out, were that:

— 76 per cent agree that Israel should offer the Arabs a territorial compromise on the West Bank and Gaza in return for credible guarantees of peace; 16 per cent disagree.

— 67 per cent think that Arab sovereignty in the territories is desirable or essential for Israel under terms of a peace agreement; 20 per cent disagree.

— 59 per cent think that Israel should offer the Palestinians the prospect of a demilitarised state of their own; 18 per cent disagree.

— 67 per cent hold that the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza will erode Israel's democratic and humanitarian character; 29 per cent disagree.

— 64 per cent object to Israel's declaration of unalterable opposition to Palestinian statehood.

Turning to the status of the peace process, Viorst said he "supports the pressure that the president and Secretary Baker are applying on the Israeli government to get on with the elections proposal" originally made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He said that since "it's the only game in town, I support our playing in it and playing in it tough."

Viorst said he wished the Democratic leadership of the Congress would also see the situation "as an opportunity for bipartisanship. The foes of peace

must not be allowed to play our two parties off against one another, as they have successfully done in the past." He noted that "all the world seems to be moving in the direction of peace, while the Middle East alone moves in the other direction. The United States cannot give up now."

Asked to assess the effect of Soviet President Gorbachev's policies on the Arab states and on Israel, Viorst said the "Soviet objective is clear: they have no wish to promote a confrontation in the region." He said the Soviets "have made it very clear that they intend to diminish the delivery of weapons to Syria to make sure that Syria is not a threat to Israel, but they will continue to deliver enough to make sure that Israel cannot overrun Syria."

"They have made it much clearer with their client state than the U.S. has made with its client state that it would like to see a resolution of the Arab-Israeli trouble."

Asked for solutions to the problem of PLO "terrorism," Viorst said that "for the foreseeable future, there will be some malcontents on both sides" who will not agree to negotiate for peace and (will) engage in terrorism. He said that, at present, "PLO terrorism is abetted by the fact that no satisfaction whatever has been given to the Palestinian people. They have not held out to them that they might have their own state, where their energies might be channeled."

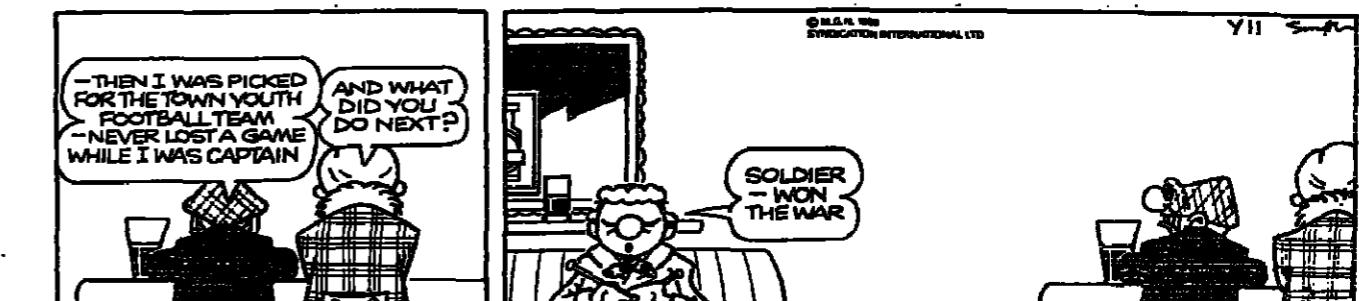
"I am not so surprised that there are a few terrorists than that there are not many more. People have been denied any kind of gratification. I think there is reason to believe that most of this behaviour can be brought under control by a new Palestinian state, committed to live in peace with Israel and in control of its own population."

Asked if he thought the PLO should be able to choose representatives in the peace talks, Viorst said that the Israelis are making a "grievous mistake" by trying to exclude the PLO from the peace talks, because the struggle is not simply one between Israel and the two million Palestinians who are living on the West Bank. "This struggle began with a rather global, monumental conflict between an Israeli nation and a Palestinian nation." He said "it is important to have an organisation that can speak for the Palestinian people both inside and outside the territories, to unify Palestinian opinion in other nations as well as inside Israel!" — USA

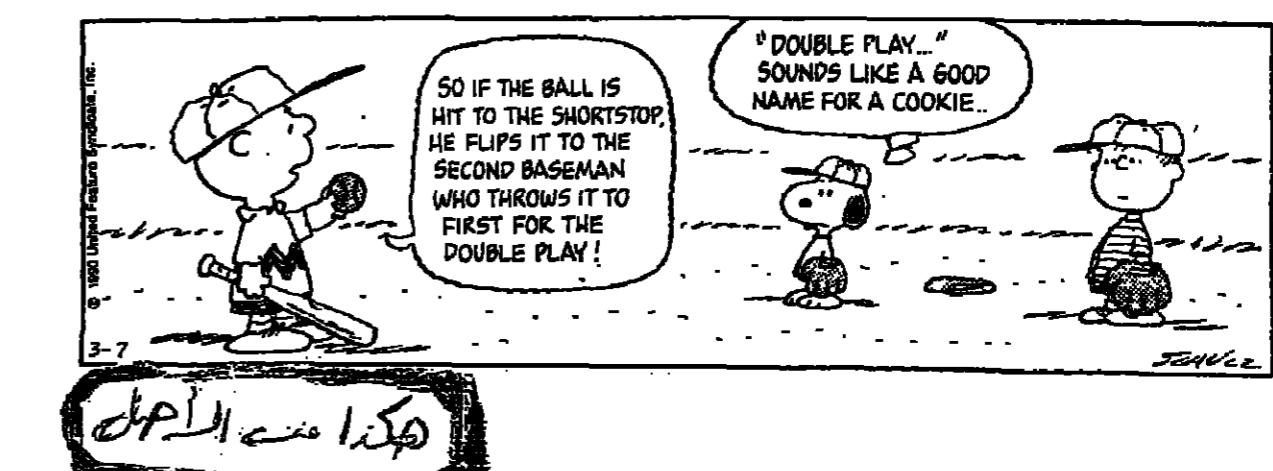
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Bhutto — latest in line of Islam's women rulers

By Stephen Hughes
Reuter

RABAT — What do Benazir Bhutto, the crown of the world, the light of the world and a feared North African corsair have in common?

All are or were women leaders in Muslim societies normally regarded as dominated by men.

Benazir Bhutto was hailed as the first woman head of government of a Muslim state when she was elected prime minister of Pakistan in 1988.

But Moroccan sociology professor Faizma Memissi, in a book just published in Paris, has dug back through history and uncovered a whole series of colourful women rulers in the Islamic world.

"Sultanes Oubliees, Femmes Chefs d'Etat en Islam" (Forgotten Sultanes, Women Heads of State in Islam) is a reminder that Muslim women have often played leading political roles in the past.

In her introduction Memissi notes Bhutto was thought to be the first woman head of government of a Muslim state. Bhutto's election even drew a cry of blasphemy from one of Pakistan's opposition politicians.

"Oh horror, never has a Muslim state been led by a woman, they cried when faced by an unusual event in Islamic tradition," Memissi writes.

"How can a Muslim politician beaten by a woman in an election brandish the pest and exhibit tradition as a weapon to disqualify his rival?" she demands. She then writes 260 pages to show that in fact sultanas and queens could play a prominent role in Islamic history.

In the 13th century, Sultana Radia ruled in Delhi after overthrowing her despotic brother Rosh Ad-Din, and Sultana Shajar Ad-Dur led the Egyptian army that routed a Christian crusade and captured King Louis IX of France.

After the pre-Islamic Queen of Sheba, Yemen had several Muslim women sovereigns. They included Malika Urwa who ruled for nearly 50 years in the 11th century.

There were at least four queens in Indonesia in the 17th century, including Taj Al-Alam (crown of the world) and Nur Al-Alam (light of the world).

Memissi has unearthed little-known details of other Muslim queens whose stories she says are ignored by most Arab historians, like Aisha Al-Hurra, the mother of the last king of Muslim Granada, Mohammad Abu Abdullah or Boabdil.

Aisha ruled the kingdom of Granada when spurned by her semi-son who fell in love with a beautiful Spanish captive. She suspected her rival was an agent of the Spanish Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, who finally drove the Moors out of Granada in 1492 to end seven centuries of Muslim rule over Andalucia.

One of Memissi's most colourful heroines is the pirate Hakimat of Tetuan, the North Moroccan city where she was the governor. As a corsair chief after the Spanish "reconquest" of Andalucia, she waged a jihad or holy war against Christian shipping when Spanish galleons were bringing gold and emeralds back from newly-discovered America.

Memissi said in an interview that her own life was "a veritable fairy tale compared to what I would have been if I had opted for the silence of traditional women."

Author of several books on the role of women in Islam, including *Le Harem Politique* (The political Harem), she was invited to speak at an international conference organised by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm in February, and she has lectured in other European capitals, Asia and the United States.

She sees herself as a promoter of dialogue between Muslim men and women, not a feminist in the Western sense. A tireless researcher, she recently contributed to a collection of essays published this year in Casablanca under the title *Femme et Pouvoirs* (Woman and Power).

She is one of a growing group of Moroccan women writers, like Soumaya Naazmene-Guescous, author of a best-seller about female sexuality in Morocco published in October 1987.

With other Arab women writers, they will attend a three-day conference on the theme "Women and Writing" due to open this Saturday in the ancient walled city of Fez.



Egyptian translates operas into Arabic

By Lee Winfield

DR. ALY Sadek is a patient and determined man. Although permanently employed as an anaesthetist in a Jeddah hospital, (and before that, 10 years with the National Health Service in England), he has managed to dedicate years of his spare time to a project that would make a less committed man throw in the towel. This motivated maestro has taken the operas of Mozart and translated entire works into Arabic.

"Why", I asked resolute and inspired Egyptian, "would you want to take on such a gargantuan task?"

The aim of this project is to introduce opera to the Arab World. I want first to break down those barriers which prevent listeners from understanding the plot. Once they understand the story line, it will then be possible to enjoy the entire work unpreserved by lack of comprehension."

The first of these works to appear in the market place is *Cosi Fan Tutte*, an opera Mozart completed just one year before he died. Experiencing Mozart at the peak of his creative power was the main reason for choosing this particular opera. Others already completed are *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*. The operas have been digitally recorded for compact disc and since this recording facility is not, as yet, available in Egypt, Dr. Sadek had to take his entire operatic crew to Katowice, 400 kilometres south of Warsaw in Poland, where he recorded his work with the National Polish Radio Orchestra.

With a reputation as being one of the best orchestras in Poland, (a country with a rich, classical music heritage), this orchestra is well known all over Europe, as a result of extensive touring throughout that continent. The soloists were Egyptian, as was the

conductor, but Dr. Sadek used a Polish chorus. This presented an unusual problem. Of course, choruses from Katowice don't have a great command of the Arabic language, so they had to be trained before going into the recording studio, as to the correct pronunciation. "This Polish chorus was very linguistically talented, so it was an easy chore to coach them," explained Dr. Sadek.

I was curious as to what sort of man could be so single-minded and devoted to something that could easily become a life's labour. Dr. Sadek actually confessed that he didn't feel he could rest until the entire body of Mozart's operas had all been translated and thus made accessible to an Arabic public. He is determined to break the preconception that opera is very much a Western musical form. As a boy, he had a few piano lessons, learned to read music and was encouraged by a father who played the oud (oriental lute). He already loved to go to the opera, and as he familiarised himself with the various composers, he became aware that for him, Mozart was the one he wanted to explore most.

Dr. Sadek satisfied with the finished product?

"I have found the entire project very rewarding and I am delighted with the quality of the recording," he responds. His love's labour will certainly not be lost on the Arabic public, who finally have access to some of the works of one of the most brilliant composers of all time. The fruits of Dr. Sadek's obsession will be harvested by Arabic opera lovers everywhere. And rest assured, Dr. Aly Sadek is not finished yet.

Anyone who wishes to buy Dr. Sadek's work will find it distributed by the U.K. company, Hamonia Mundi. You can contact Music Master Record Shop in Riyadh, Jeddah or Al Khobar for the CD set. Residents of an travellers to Cairo can catch a live performance of the *Marriage of Figaro*, which will be performed in Arabic, at Cairo Opera House for two weeks as of 1st June, 1990 — Arab News.

floats. Fortunately, too, both languages utilise the back of the pharynx, so travelling from one language to the other, wasn't as huge a hurdle as it might have been with two less compatible languages. Arabic's wealth of synonyms and its musicality were also advantageous to the project.

The book which accompanies the CD set is a major feat of translation itself. There's the Arabic libretto in Italian, and an English version for the non-Arabic speaker to enjoy. These had to be compiled with an eye to both linguistic and artistic considerations. Dr. Sadek already had a strong command of French which he found helped enormously when it came to dealing with the Italian. However some of the Italian vocabulary used in librettos, is no longer part of the vernacular, thus he had to consult with experts if ever there was any doubt as to the intended meaning of some of these "old Italian" words.

Is Dr. Sadek satisfied with the finished product?

"I have found the entire project very rewarding and I am delighted with the quality of the recording," he responds. His love's labour will certainly not be lost on the Arabic public, who finally have access to some of the works of one of the most brilliant composers of all time.

But it's a long road from personally enjoying an operatic performance to actually sitting down and transforming the entire libretto (the words of an opera) into another language. This entails far more than straightforward translation. Of prime import is the music. As well as following the libretto faithfully, Dr. Sadek had also to ensure that the "music and words were one entity."

He would first translate the text into Arabic, and then work it over and over until the meaning was concentrated, succinct, and tell easily upon the melody line.

This is syllabic work. Fortunately, both Italian and Arabic share an abundance of vowels, and it is upon these vowels, (not the consonants) that musical sound

Time to invest in people

The huge additional numbers now being added to the Third World's population mean that we are faced by a future which is likely to be fundamentally different from the past. Here Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UN Population Fund, argues that if the world's environment is to survive, development must be made to start where it is supposed to end — in the lives of ordinary individuals.

MOST of us cheerfully accept that we know nothing about the future — yet we have children, bring them up and launch them upon the world as if we knew exactly what tomorrow would bring. On a political level, governments act with a similar confidence. They make plans, raise taxes and invest in projects years ahead, just as if they could predict the future.

What we are all doing, governments and individuals alike, is to make assumptions. We assume that the future will be much the same as the past. We have survived so far, so perhaps we can survive so far, so perhaps we can survive the future.

The problem is that the future is not always like the past. The projections of the United Nations Population Division, for example, have been remarkably consistent overall. For the last 30 years, they have been projecting a total world population of about six billion at the end of the century, and about eight billion in 2025. World population is now 5.23 billion and the current projection for the end of the century is 6.25 billion. People are being added in greater numbers than ever before — 80 million a year at the beginning of the 1980s, over 90 million a year in the 1990s.

Between 1990 and the end of the century, world population will grow by one billion people, or the whole of world population around 1800, or an additional four countries the size of the United States or western Europe; but with the resources of India or Kenya, because nearly all of the growth will be in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by and large the fastest growth is in the poorest countries.

The figures are consistent — but they make our picture of the future fundamentally different from that of the past.

Numbers have grown dramatically, but the planet has not. We are beyond the point where the Earth can absorb the effects of our degradations. Not only are there two billion people more than in 1950, but they and their demands on natural resources are having more extensive and permanent effects than were dreamed of.

Damage to the ozone layer is already spreading skin cancer in the southern hemisphere; the buildup of 'greenhouse gases' threatens some coastal regions and even whole countries with destruction, as global tempera-

ture rises.

These effects are largely the results of increasing resource use in the richer countries; but the implications of population growth in the poorer countries are also frightening to contemplate.

The combination of poverty and population growth is a powerful force holding back development, and therefore holds back the growth in resources needed for the future.

One of the recent effects has been the phenomenal growth of cities and the number of people living in them. Seventeen of the 20 largest cities in the world are now in developing countries, and they are growing to sizes never before imagined. The population of Mexico City is 18 million, and will be over 25 million in 10 years' time. Sao Paulo in Brazil is close behind, with Shanghai, Calcutta, Cairo and Lagos on their heels.

They know the long-term dangers of these practices — famine, deforestation and erosion — such things were never done in their fathers' time — but they often have no choice.

In the past, the cities were centres of culture and enlightenment, as well as producing wealth. The very word "civilization" implies urban living. But today's cities are sucking in the poor and dispossessed at such a rate, making such demands on resources, and producing so much waste and pollution, that they are in danger of becoming unintentional Frankenstein's monsters, parasites on the countries which support them.

In the past, planners welcomed the trend to urban living because it was felt that urbanisation would reinforce the trend to smaller families. True, urban families tend to be smaller; but the figures are based on urban residents with a fixed abode. The vast numbers of "informal residents" — shanty town, squatter settlement and slum dwellers — which may make up a quarter to a third of a city's population today, are not included.

All the evidence is that their fertility is very high. Few health or family planning services reach them, their children have little or no education, they rarely have water or power on tap. Above all, they are very poor. Clearly, this sort of "urbanisation" has limited benefits for anyone, especially city planners.

The biggest risks are from the biggest cities; there seems to be a threshold at about one million

people.

Below that level, the amenities of urban life outweigh the disadvantages. Above it, transport, utilities, housing, health and education systems all become overburdened and unwieldy. The biggest cities attract the most people, but they cannot meet their needs. Studies have shown that the pavement-dwellers of a city like Bombay are useful, productive individuals. They work harder than most, but for much less money than average. They cannot afford proper housing, and still less the other amenities of urban life. They represent a problem which will grow, because their children start life disadvantaged and are likely never to escape the trap of long hours of labour for a poor return.

It is not a simple decision, of course. Fertility behaviour and family size respond to a number of conditions, among them the level of education of the mother, the income of the family, the health status of mother and children, and so on. Social values in traditional societies tend to favour large families, and long practice is reinforced by the ties of family and status in the community. In some cultures, women have little independent power of decision. Women who live in their husbands' families are often subject to the feelings and beliefs of their husbands' mothers as well as the husbands themselves. Some women are never seen outside the home, and are never allowed to earn an income.

The aim of population programmes must be to widen the scope of the decisions available. They empower people — and women in particular — to take command of their own lives.

Women already bear a disproportionate share of the survival burden — they produce most of the food; they are in charge of water, fuel, and household management; and they also bear and take care of the new generation. "Empowerment" may thus seem another means of increasing their load.

But if development programmes are structured so as to take account of the realities of life in the village or the shanty town, the burdens will become lighter. In practice, this means redirecting development investment in favour of programmes which directly benefit women — education, health and family planning programmes in particular — as well as employment and revision of the law to give women full equality and access to development resources.

Our aim in other words must be to ensure that development starts where it is supposed to end — in the lives of ordinary people. If national and international development planning is structured with these priorities in mind, much of the rest will follow.

Such an approach by no means rules out the large-scale new technologies, inter-governmental co-operatives, major transfers of resources of all kinds will be needed more than ever — but the principle is to make the large-scale serve the interest of the small. These are the seeds of survival — People magazine.

Italian fashion to new hemline heights

By Daniela Petroff
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — If Gianni Versace was daring last season when he hiked his hemlines 25 centimetres above the knee, this time he's darn right fresh with skirts so tiny they no longer cover anything.

The peak-a-boo effect of the new fall-winter 1990-1991 collection presented in Rome March 4 was no accident. The flamboyant designer, favourite son of the show-biz crowd, presented them in a variety of styles from derriere-hugging jersey dresses and

skirts to elaborately embroidered silk cocktail gowns.

Also short was the 1990's Versace version of the loose trapeze dress first launched in the 1960s.

Gianni was a bad boy when it came to his evening wear too, sitting the side of a floor length gown straight up the leg. The same gown has a plunging back-line which joins the slit at the waist in a single snap. What happens if the snap were to pop is anybody's guess.

Apart from a few raised eyebrows, mainly from the staid Milanese crowd attending the

show, the general consensus was that whatever Gianni does, he does so well he can get away with it.

One of the things Versace does best is jeweled embroidery, which this season he uses heavily to divert attention from the many bare spots in his collection. Thus a tiny A-line silk dress, which is really no more than a slip, becomes a sumptuous cocktail gown when Versace stitches a myriad of shimmering crystals and pearls in the form of a heart down the back or across the front.

Bustier tops made up entirely of encrusted jewels give subtle

ance to the micro skirt below, while simple silk stretch pants turn into sophisticated evening wear when decorated with paisley or floral prints shaped entirely out of rich sequins.

Plumage on hemlines and waistlines are another filler in the collection.

To further make up for the skimpy styles underneath, the Versace jacket is loose and full with wide sleeve and generous shawl collar, in bright shades of blue, green, yellow and red.

According to Armani, heavy knit sweaters will be worn over jackets next winter.

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Iraq encourages cooperatives

BAGHDAD (AP) — The cooperative movement in Iraq is attempting to expand in an effort to protect consumers from high prices during the current privatisation campaign.

For about two million Iraqis who benefit from their services, the cooperatives are a source of hope for lower prices while the government is loosening its grip on the economy.

The cooperatives were set up after the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party came to power in 1968 to provide consumers with a variety of products from matches to television sets.

The decision to allow people to form their own cooperatives was in line with Iraq's non-Marxist brand of socialism which rejects class struggle and gives a role to the private sector in the economy.

Sahib Al Mustawfi, head of the Federation of Cooperatives which groups 143 local societies said the federation's goals are "supplying more goods and lower prices."

During and after the eight-year war with Iran, the increasing demands of 650,000 families who belong to cooperatives outstripped the supply of many goods. One reason is a slash in imports because of high, war-induced debt. Another is a government policy to favour government-run shops which provide cheaper goods for its 1.5 million state employees.

"We receive only 15 per cent of goods supplied by the trade ministry while the remaining 85 per cent goes to the government-owned shops," said Al Mustawfi in an interview.

Al Mustawfi said despite shortages in consumer goods like television sets, refrigerators and imported clothes, the cooperatives are still seen by their members as being essential in supplying them with cheaper goods and services.

The cooperatives are buying essential goods like sugar, rice, tea and vegetable oil at subsidised prices.

But due to a sharp rise in the prices of privately produced

goods, many of the cooperatives fear that they will not be able to provide these goods to their members at a cheap enough price.

To help overcome this problem, the cooperatives have encouraged their members to set up home workshops where goods such as clothes and furniture can be manufactured and then sold to the public.

"We started setting up our own small factories ... to loosen the grip of the private sector on consumers," he said.

To encourage this trend, government-owned enterprises are selling the cooperatives what they need in the way of raw materials and tools and banks are providing loans to encourage them to expand their business.

Mizban Khider Hadi, a member of the Baath Party leadership who supervises the activities of the cooperatives, told the army daily Al Qaddisiya last week that the government is determined to encourage the cooperatives to produce for their own needs some

consumer goods like clothes to cut imports.

The beginning of replacing imported clothes by locally produced clothes in the workshops of the cooperatives, he was quoted as saying.

The government has also encouraged the cooperatives to buy shares in state enterprises which are being sold to the public.

Many cooperatives have already invested in enterprises like textiles and meat and poultry plants.

Foreign diplomats say the government's apparent intention to continue promoting the private sector it is also increasing its subsidies of basic goods to avert public unrest which could be sparked by price rises in the private sector.

The government announced earlier this year it would increase the amount paid to subsidise basic foodstuffs to about 500 million Iraqi dinars (\$1.56 billion), more than double the amount paid last year.

The government announced

White House denies planning to dump central bank chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Friday denied a report that President George Bush plans to get rid of Federal Reserve (FED) Chairman Alan Greenspan when his term expires in August 1991.

The Los Angeles Times quoted an unidentified "longtime Bush adviser" as saying Bush was "mad as hell" about Fed policy.

"I can't believe he will reappoint him (Greenspan) and I don't know a soul in the White House who thinks he will," the newspaper quoted the adviser as saying.

Brow-Beating of the Fed by the White House is common.

Last August, White House Budget Director Richard Darman complained in an interview about Fed interest rate policy, saying that if the economy fell into a recession it would be the central bank's fault.

The White House has praised Greenspan's efforts to contain inflation, currently running at about 4.5 per cent annually, while avoiding recession.

It cherishes its independence but knows squabbling with the president can upset financial markets.

Markets shrugged off reports of these latest tensions.

"You're talking about something that might or might not happen 18 months from now.

How do you act on it?" asked Prudential-Bache securities analyst Larry Wachtel.

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